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22 SEP 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : CORONA Improvement Program

REFERENCE : Memorandum from Dr. McMillan to
Deputy Secretary of Defense and DCI,
dated 20 July 1965 (attached)

1. This memorandum is for your information.
2. Dr. McMillan's comments on the CORONA Improvement Program are, in effect, a status report as of that date. The validity of his document has been altered somewhat by the events which have occurred since then, primarily, those resulting from the new NRO Agreement.
3. The CORONA Improvement Program, in essence, is centered about the camera modification which will provide a twenty to thirty per cent gain in resolution, as well as the capability to operate at lower altitudes, thus offering a better scale factor. Although we have initiated our work effort at Itek, the camera company, reluctance by the NRO to approve certain essential supporting work at LLSC and GE has resulted in program slippage already of two months from the date specified by Dr. McMillan.
4. In working out the implementation procedures of the new NRO Agreement with Mr. James Heber and General Stewart, we have commenced to sort out the details of organization and how we should proceed. Unfortunately, upon his return from leave, Dr. McMillan has not found our preliminary joint solutions to his satisfaction. We are optimistic that a proper and logical resolution eventually will be implemented, but have concluded that further

NRO review(s) completed.

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discussions should await Dr. Flax's assumption of the D/NRO responsibilities.

5. We are confident that our resolutions will aid measurably in achieving efficient and cooperative management of the CORONA Program and that the improvements of the camera system which are now underway will provide this Nation with a much-desired reconnaissance asset.



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ARTHUR E. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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